

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 15, 1881, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Hotel Continental, Paris.  
November 15th, 1881. My darling May:

Your injunctions about sitting up and etc., reached me just too late to be of benefit to me. Your threats to retaliate upon yourself by carrying Daisy and etc., — and your strict injunctions to omit my signature from my telegrams and omit “Mrs.” from the address — led me to show you my powers of telegraphic contraction (without ambiguity?) by sending you a telegram which I hope you received — although I am afraid you cannot have done so.

It was as follows:

“Bell — Alexandra — London — Don't — Well.” Mr. Johnson and I thought that it would certainly be delivered to one of the Mrs. Bells at the Alexandra Hotel — and as certainly be sent by her to the other! Were we right! — and what did you make of it when you received it?

When I reached Paris I determined to finish off the Exhibition as soon as possible so as to return to you — but I have found that the more haste the less speed — for by Saturday night I was completely knocked up and I have lost practically two whole days — Sunday and Monday — on account of my old enemy a blue headache. My blueness for the past two days has been of the bluest description and I am only glad my dear that it was impossible for me to inflict my society upon you. I have managed to have a good day today at the Exhibition — and think I shall be all right tomorrow morning.

## Library of Congress

While I was examining an exhibit yesterday — Mr. Mascart came up and introduced to me a gentleman whose name is as familiar to me as that of Helmholtz — on account of his admirable scoustical researches — Dondere. I thought he was dead and buried before I was born — and was therefore surprised to find a man hardly past the prime of life — although slightly 2 grizzled. I was pleased too to find how well he talked English. I am to dine with him tomorrow evening — and I look forward to a pleasant talk on Vowel Theories.

I expect to complete the Exhibition tomorrow and then if you don't want me immediately, I think I better spend Thursday here calling upon scientific and other friends. By the by a lady came up to me today and took my hand in both of here, in the most affectionate way — asking after you and “dear Mrs Hubbard” — you may guess — I expect — without my telling you that it was madame Hansen.

A box of historical apparatus has just been received from Boston — Duplicates of early telephones — and Mr. Heock and I have set them up on exhibition tonight.

I wish I knew the address of Miss Adams, as I should like to call upon her before I leave.

And now goodnight my little wife. Please do take care of yourself. Love to Elsie and Daisy. Here is a big kiss for big Blaie (X) and here are two little ones for little Daisy — (x) (x)

I am tired out and want to get back to London. Goodnight.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Alexandra Hotel, London.